

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Claims 1-33 were pending in this application. By the present Amendment, Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, 20, 22, 23, 27 and 29 are canceled and amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-13, 15-19, 21, 24-26, 28, 31 and 32 are amended.

Claims 1-17 and 19-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the ITO publication. Claim 18 was rejected under §103 over the combination of ITO and the Ludtke patent. Applicant respectfully submits that all claims in this application, at least in the form presented herein, are patentable over the cited references for at least the following reasons:

Considering Claim 1, for example, it is submitted that the cited portions of ITO do not disclose or suggest an electronic apparatus for processing audio/video data, comprising:

“a data processing subunit, *included within said electronic apparatus*, for receiving and processing audio/video input data;

a functional block, *included within said data processing subunit*, operative as a terminating functional block to terminate the data processed by said data processing subunit;

a memory for storing information pertaining to said data processing subunit and said functional block, *wherein the information stored in said memory is accessible by an external electronic apparatus connected to said electronic apparatus via a serial data bus*; and

connection means for connecting said electronic apparatus and said external electronic apparatus via said serial data bus.” (emphasis added)

It should be readily apparent that ITO does not describe or suggest at least the above-emphasized features of the present invention of Claim 1. For instance, the Office Action asserted that ITO's PC is equivalent to the claimed data processing subunit; that the printer 202 is equivalent to the claimed functional block; and so forth. The printer 202, however, is not

included within ITO's PC. In essence, Applicant's claims call for a hierarchical structure wherein a functional block is included within a subunit; and the subunit is included within the electronic apparatus. That is, a hierarchy, from the highest order to lowest order, of the electronic apparatus, the subunit, and the functional block, is an essential aspect of Applicant's claims. This hierarchy is neither disclosed nor suggested by ITO (or Ludkte).

Accordingly, in light of the above distinction, Claim 1 is not anticipated by ITO under §102.

Independent Claims 19, 26 and 32 are patentable over ITO for at least the same reasons just discussed concerning analogous features of Claim 1.

The remaining claims in this application are patentable over ITO based at least upon their respective dependencies from one of the above-noted independent claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, and the allowance of this application with all claims, are respectfully solicited.

The above statements concerning the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinion of Applicants' representative and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees, Applicants' representative respectfully requests the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

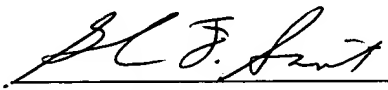
It is submitted that the claims in this application, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112.

Rather, these changes are made for clarification and to round out the scope of protection for the invention.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

Respectfully submitted,
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